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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

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February 19, 2010

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Governor
State of Michigan
110 West Michigan Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Governor Granholm:

I appreciate you taking the time on February 10, 2010 to discuss Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative's proposed power plant in Rogers City. Approval of Wolverine Power's air quality permit remains a top priority for job creation in northeastern Michigan as well as for meeting Michigan's energy needs. In addition, the project is consistent with the need to produce cleaner energy in Michigan and across the country.

On February 16, 2010, President Obama announced \$8.33 billion in U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) loan guarantees to Southern Company for construction of two nuclear power units in Burke, Georgia. This unprecedented federal investment in nuclear power demonstrates the commitment of the Obama administration to a balanced energy policy relying on proven technologies and fuels, such as electricity generated through nuclear power and cleaner burning coal, as well as innovative renewable energy technologies.

The federal government is investing in a broad portfolio of new and existing technologies to further our nation's energy independence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Northern Michigan alone has received federal grants for a commercial-scale biofuel refinery, advanced battery development for vehicles, and a carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) project through Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative's proposed power plant in Rogers City. Through this commitment of federal funding, the Wolverine Power project has been identified by the Obama administration as a priority in our national energy plan and it should be a priority in Michigan's as well.

The commitment to existing energy technologies shown by President Obama in approving federal loans to begin constructing the first new nuclear reactors in the United States in more than 30 years should be echoed in Michigan. Just as many question the safety of new nuclear reactors, some will question the environmental impact of a new coal-fired power plant. Wolverine Power's proposed plant in Rogers City will help meet Michigan's growing energy needs with as minimal of an environmental impact as possible.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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A majority of Michigan's active power plants were built 40 to 50 years ago, and many will soon need to be retired. By allowing Wolverine Power's Rogers City plant to move forward, we can meet Michigan's energy needs while reducing the pollution created by power plants in our state. Wolverine Power's Rogers City plant will use technology designed to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, mercury and other pollutants, making it significantly cleaner and greener than most power plants in Michigan.

The initial \$2.7 million grant for Wolverine's CCS demonstration project could allow Michigan to be at the forefront of CCS development in the United States. An additional \$147 million in DOE funding is potentially available if the air quality permit is approved by March 31, 2010. In addition to its environmental benefits, the CCS project would also enhance oil drilling in northern Michigan, which could result in up to several hundred million dollars in state revenue, and several hundred new jobs at a time when Michigan badly needs both.

As you are aware, this important project will remain in limbo until the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment approves the required air quality permit. Thanks in large part to your leadership, Michigan is positioned to be a leader in our nation's energy future, and projects like Wolverine Power's innovative CCS project are key to that goal. I strongly support Wolverine Power's proposal, and I respectfully request that your office work with Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment to promptly approve the pending air quality permit.

Any delay after March 31, 2010 in approving Wolverine Power Company's permit threatens federal funding and potentially puts Michigan in the backseat of this important area of energy research and economic development. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bart Stupak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

BART STUPAK
Member of Congress

BTS/jh

CC: The Honorable Andy Neumann, Michigan State Representative
The Honorable Jason Allen, Michigan State Senator